

# Teenagers wage war on voter apathy

*Christina Drinkwater, 15, is a homeschool student who lives in Meridian. She plans to attend Meridian Community College and then possibly Mississippi State University or Kentucky State to pursue a degree in English, communications, equine medicine or business management. Her dream is to own a Tennessee walking horse farm and be a part-time novelist and free-lance writer.*

*In her story, Christina describes a battle very different from the one waged by U.S. troops, but one that could only be fought at home. It was a down-home mission in support of the security of this country and freedom for the Iraqi people — working for President George W. Bush's reelection.*

## By Christina Drinkwater

special to The Star

From Oct. 27-Nov. 3, the city of New Orleans was under siege by 143 teenagers.

Sponsored by two organizations, Generation Joshua and TeenPact, these teens were on a search and "implore" mission — to find those who didn't plan to vote and get them out to the polls.

Our method of operation consisted of walking door to door, leaving literature when people weren't home, talking with those who were, and running for our lives from the dog of the occasional disgruntled homeowner.

Our troops set a campaign

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Christina Drinkwater

record for visiting 24,000 homes in one day. Every afternoon we were dropped at key points across town and given an unbelievably enjoyable assignment ... waving signs.

Our tactics had to be changed a little. Instead of being methodical, we were to act quite childish, jumping up and down, line-dancing and getting on other recruits' shoulders.

Possibly our greatest mission of all was on E-day. We were to call, en masse, the precincts that weren't getting out to vote and remind them of their simple assignment. Our force was great, though at first we were naught, save a raw bunch of volunteers. Our leaders soon trained us to be a fast, effective, focused and determined team.

We mapped out the best plan of attack to take down even the largest of precincts, spaced our soldiers so we could cover the most ground when sign-waving, and divided phone lists into easily conquered sections.

Our down time was spent studying God's word, playing music, munching during coffee shop time and generally bumming around.

On E-day we waited anxiously for the result until ... we had conquered! The two local candidates we supported had won!

It wasn't until the next day that we knew for sure that the most important battle of all had been cinched. Bush had been triumphant.

The victory party was a huge hit. The Bobby Brothers, a group of guys from our team, performed. They did several line dances and sketches, and led chants with signs from our local candidates. Our week was filled with laughs, memories, new friends, old friends and powerful Bible study.

We were close knit by our common goal and quickly became the best of comrades, as soldiers often will under the pressures of war. Despite the resistance and mockery we sometimes met, we never wavered from our ultimate goal.

Our team is always open for new recruits and a more solemn promise you can't find: You will never regret your involvement, because today's politicians affect tomorrow's world, our world.

For more information and to find out how you can join



PHOTO BY PENNY RANDALL / THE MERIDIAN STAR

## BUSH SUPPORTER

Christina Drinkwater holds a campaign sign in support of President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. She was part of a grass-roots campaign before the presidential election that set a record for visiting 24,000 homes in one day.

our number, go to [www.generationjoshua.org](http://www.generationjoshua.org) or [www.teenpact.com](http://www.teenpact.com).

We'll see you on the battlefield.

## Contributors



In this section are stories, features and artwork by:

Kristin Amerson  
Cheri Barry  
Heather Blackwell  
Jason Brush  
Jason Cooper  
Kate Crawford  
Christina Drinkwater  
Jennie Gaither  
Steve Gillespie  
Sarah Hicks  
Ginny Clair Hitt  
Kenyetta Jimison  
Tommy S. King  
Courtney Kirkman  
KiAndrea Moss  
Jarrod Moulds  
Haley Porter  
Trisha Rainer  
Kay Thomas  
Barbara Wells  
Lynnzie Warren  
Tasheé Williams